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out scientific investigations. This committee consists of Mr. J. Burt-Davy (botany and agriculture); Mr. L. Colquhoun (chemistry); Professor Young (geology); Professor Orr (mechanical engineering); Mr. Bernard Price (electrical engineering); Professor Beattie (physics); Dr. Caldecott (metallurgy); Professor van der Riet (chemistry); Professor Malherbe (chemistry); Dr. L. Peringuey (president of the Royal Society of South Africa). The first step taken by the new committee has been to arrange for the preparation of fifty-two reports by leading experts, dealing with the available raw materials of South Africa suitable for manufacture or export. It is intended that these reports shall be published for the guidance of intending manufacturers and other business men.

ARRANGEMENTS have recently been completed for the establishment of a new department of technical optics in connection with the Imperial College of Science and Technology at South Kensington. According to a statement in the *London Times*, the new department is under the management of a Technical Optics Committee, of which Mr. Arthur H. D. Acland is chairman, and which at present consists of 13 members representing the Admiralty, the Army Council, the Ministry of Munitions, the Royal Society, the National Physical Laboratory, employers in the optical trades, glass manufacturers and the Imperial College; while two further members have yet to be elected representative of glass workers and metal workers. Mr. Frederic J. Cheshire has been appointed head of the new department at the Imperial College for a period of five years, with the title of director of technical optics and professor of technical optics at the Imperial College. Mr. Cheshire has been associated with optical instruments for many years at the Patent Office, and, since the formation of the Ministry of Munitions, has been deputy director-general of the ministry and technical director of the optical department. He is president of the Optical Society. It is anticipated that the organization of departments will be rapidly completed, and that training will begin at an early date.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PLANS for medical work at the University of Chicago, for which a fund of \$5,500,000 has been raised, contemplate two medical schools and provision for research. One medical school on essentially the same basis as that of the Johns Hopkins University is to provide training for candidates for the degree of M.D. The other school, in connection with the Presbyterian Hospital, is intended for the benefit of those in actual practise. It may be estimated that the entire amount of money involved, including all the corporations which unite for this work, will reach approximately \$15,000,000.

MR. LEVI BARBOUR, of Detroit, has given \$150,000 to the University of Michigan, one hundred thousand dollars of which is to be used for a residence hall for women and fifty thousand for scholarships for women from oriental countries.

As the result of recent gifts, Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis., is erecting a dormitory for women to cost \$125,000 and a chapel to cost \$120,000.

DR. JESSE MORE GREENMAN, associate professor in the Henry Shaw School of Botany of Washington University and curator of the herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden has been promoted to a professorship of botany in Washington University.

At the recent commencement of Syracuse University, Dr. Louis M. Hickernell was promoted from an instructorship to be assistant professor of zoology. Mr. Harry S. Pizer, B.Sc., won a teaching fellowship in zoology for the coming year.

DR. A. E. SHIPLEY, master of Christ's College, Cambridge, and reader in zoology in the university, has been elected vice-chancellor for the next academical year.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### AN INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Dr. Sarton's plan for an *Institute for the History of Sci-*

*ence and Civilization* is one of the most important and fruitful suggestions that have been made for the advancement of knowledge. It is to be hoped that the realization of his idea might come soon and not have to wait until that rather indefinite time—"after the war." As Dr. Sarton very properly points out, it would be particularly important and fitting if this institute would be founded in this country *at this time*. That the United States, since he wrote his communication, has entered the war should make no difference. We are, as I understand it, fighting for internationalism and the founding of the institute now would emphasize the international spirit of American science.

What most particularly interests me in Dr. Sarton's plan is the place he gives to Bibliography. Some readers of *SCIENCE* will perhaps remember a couple of communications that the present writer sent to this journal, now many years ago, on the subject of a proposition for an *Institute for Bibliographical Research*. The two ideas should be combined. A third idea might perhaps be added to this combination, namely the plan for a lending library for libraries, consisting of large and expensive works, chiefly periodicals, transactions and collections, just the kind of publications that the Institute would need for the proper carrying on of its researches; that the collections of such a library would have to be made available to students all over the country should make no difference; it would emphasize the national character of the Institute.

Now, as to Bibliography, one of the first duties of the Institute would be to prepare an adequate and, as far as possible, complete bibliography of the history of science. The "List of Books on the History of Science," with its Supplement and its companion "List of Books on the History of Industry," published by The John Crerar Library, is merely a bringing together of the material, and only part of the material, for such a bibliography. Furthermore, bibliographical research must be one of the principal methods of study in the institute. There should be a separate, specially organized, division for Bibliography, the func-

tion of which should be not only to carry on bibliographical research and publication, but to give those who come to the institute what they do not seem to get in American universities, a much needed training in the technique of bibliographical compilation and recording. It is not uncommon to find otherwise well equipped scholars totally incapable, apparently, of making bibliographical references in a consistent and systematic way, though thoroughly familiar with the bibliography of their subjects and its byways. Those who are interested in a few examples, will find them in an article by the present writer in volume 7 of the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, entitled "Efficiency and Bibliographical Research."

AKSEL G. S. JOSEPHSON

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#### POPULAR NAMES OF PLANTS

TO THE EDITOR OF *SCIENCE*: My attention was recently called to an article in your issue of February 2 concerning popular names of North American plants. I especially noted the following sentence:

It is clear, however, that pupils in the public schools, as well as many of their teachers, do not take any interest in or remember the Latin names of plants. This being so, it is highly desirable that every species of plant inhabiting the United States and Canada should have an English name. It is further desirable that the name should not be a local one. . . .

Several years ago when acting as editor-in-chief of *The Nature-Study Review*, I took interest in this question of popular names of plants and discussed it with many competent teachers of nature-study. I was forced to the conclusion that in a large number of cases it is possible and highly desirable that we should make the English out of the generic names. It is my observation that children learn these names quite as easily as they do English names with which they are not already familiar. It is nonsense to claim that children can not learn scientific names, for example, chrysanthemum and hippopotamus. As examples of familiar plants which are very generally known by their scientific names or